

Pupil, 5 others killed as truck runs into Jumat mosque

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SIX people, including a pupil coming from school to Ode-Omu Central Mosque, Osun State, reportedly lost their lives on Friday.

The incident, involving a single truck with Abuja registration number Abuja BWR 867 XC, happened around 1.45 p.m. as some worshippers were set for Jum'at.

The first casualty said to be around eight years was said to have left school for the mosque when she met her death on the spot.

Others were said to have been rushed to a hospital where they were confirmed dead.

Those injured in the accident were also rushed to various hospitals in the town. According to eyewitnesses, the driver ran away as soon as the incident happened.

The truck was said to have lost its brake and while maneuvering he ran into some people going to the mosque for 2.00 p.m. prayer.

Most of those who died were crushed by the truck before it eventually rammed into the fence of the mosque which was near Ode Omu police station.

The eyewitness, a vulcaniser who witnessed the event, said he carried the pupil from the drainage where she fell after she was hit by the truck, but lamented that she died immediately.

It was confirmed that the Osun State governor, Mr Rauf Aregbesola came to the mosque after the incident.

Saturday Tribune was told that he actually came after the incident, commiserated with the community and went into the mosque for prayers.

When contacted, the Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Osun State, Mr Umar Ibrahim confirmed the death of five male adults while he put the number of the injured at six, comprising three male adults and three male children.

He added that the injured victims were taken to the

State Hospital, Osogbo for medical attention.

Describing the accident as unfortunate, the sector commander said that the cause was unknown, stating that his command would carry out investigations into the cause.

Saturday Tribune learnt that FRSC, police officers and men as well as officials of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps were part of the rescue operations and the evacuation of injured victims to the hospital.

Abduction: Lagos monarch's kidnappers demand N500m ransom

THE family of the abducted monarch of Iba town, Ojo Local Government Area, Lagos, Yushau Oseni, has said that the kidnappers have contacted them demanding N500 million as ransom for his release.

One of the king's daughters and former chairperson, Iba Local Government Council, Mrs Ramota Oseni, said the abductors had contacted the family since July 20.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) reports that the 74-year-old traditional ruler was abducted in his Palace at Iba on July 16 at about 8 p.m.

He had celebrated his 40 years on the throne on Nov. 22, 2015.

Mrs Oseni said the family decided not to make the ransom public since then for security reasons as they thought they could resolve it internally.

She said the family had negotiated with the abductors to pay N40million, which was not available but had contacted the state government to augment so

that he would be released.

According to her, it was to the family's dismay that the state government, through the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters had not responded since then.

"I immediately called the commissioner to inform him of the development and to get across to the state government

"But subsequent calls to his phone since then were unanswered and he did not get back to us either," she said.

She said the family also called on the Commissioner of Police, Fatai Owoseni but to no avail.

Owoseni, in a telephone interview with newsmen, said it was not advisable to make the ransom public.

Owoseni said such issues when discussed in the public domain would encourage the kidnappers.

He added that investigation was ongoing to rescue the monarch and disclosing the strategy of the police toward this would jeopardise their effort.

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